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# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING 2020

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## OVERVIEW

With the main objective to preserve our delegates' wellbeing, but also with the belief that the scientific community should not be stopped, WIT decided that Sustainable Development and Planning 2020 should not take place as scheduled in Bilbao, Spain, but take place as an online event instead.

The conference was organised by the Wessex Institute, UK, represented by Dr Stavros Syngellakis.

The conference, which started in Skiathos, Greece, in 2003 is well-established and always attracts a wide international spread of delegates. The variety of topics covered by the conference reflects the complexity of problems related to development and planning, which affect rural and urban areas that are present in all regions of the world.

## OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference was opened by Professor Santiago Hernández who welcomed the delegates to the event.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

There were a series of invited lectures on advanced topics of research and applications, as follows:

“Health and alternative tourism development for the island of Crete”, **Dr Dimitris Prokopiou**, University of Piraeus, Greece.

“The potential impact of information systems tackling the Sustainable Development Goal 10 on the dimensions of health care and gender”, **Professor Roman Brandtweiner**, Vienna University of Economics & Business, Austria.

“Cultural heritage and interoperable open platforms: strategies for knowledge, accessibility, enhancement and networking”, **Professor Danila Longo**, University of Bologna, Italy.

## CONFERENCE SESSIONS

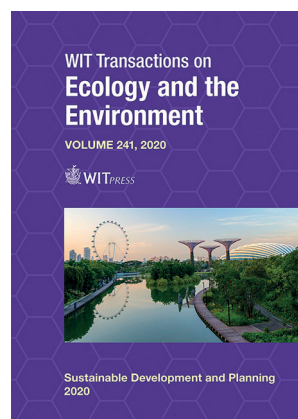
The papers presented during the conference were classified under the following headings:

- Sustainable tourism
- Sustainable development conceptualizations
- Water and flora management
- Information technologies for sustainable development and planning
- Sustainable energy, mobility and industry
- City planning
- Cultural heritage and quality of life
- Climate change and rural areas development

## CONFERENCE PUBLICATION

Papers presented at this conference are published in Vol. 241 of the WIT Transactions on Ecology and the Environment (ISSN 1743-3541). Papers presented at the meeting are available Open Access in the eLibrary of the Wessex Institute (<https://www.witpress.com/elibrary>) from where they can be freely downloaded by any interested parties.

A few papers were selected for publication in this journal, *International Journal of Transport Development and Integration* and *International Journal of Environmental Impacts*.



## CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE

We are very sorry that we were not able to meet our delegates in person this year.

WIT is aware that one of the benefits of the conferences is the networking among colleagues and the only reason for implementing this strategy is the exceptional circumstances created by the COVID-19 crisis. Thus, to allow the authors to maintain that capability, delegates registered at Sustainable Development and Planning 2020 who had their paper accepted for publication, will be able to attend the next conference in the series (or a different conference of their choice devoted to similar topics that takes place prior to that) free of charge, and if they wish, make an oral presentation of their published paper.